Extradition Treaties

1240. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with whom India has extradition treaties at present; and

(b) the countries with whom India has extradition arrangements and what are the reasons for not signing extradition treaties with those countries and by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Extradition treaties have been signed and are in operation with United Kingdom, United States of America, Nepal, Bhutan, United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, Canada, Russia, Belgium, Hong Kong and Netherlands.

(b) India has reciprocal extradition arrangements with nine countries—Australia, Fiji, Germany, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania and Thailand. Extradition requests made to these countries are governed by the extradition laws of the Requested State. The conclusion of an extradition treaty is a bilateral process and proposals are initiated after ascertaining the interest of other countries in concluding extradition treaties with India.

Arrest of Indian nationals sought for by FBI

1241. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to sjate:

(a) whether Government have recently received a list of 30 Indian nationals from the Federal Bureau of Investigation who are suspected to have been a part of the Al-Qaeda network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many such persons have been arrested so far and handed over to U.S. Government; and

(d) by when the remaining persons are likely to be arrested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan

1242. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the population of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan before the Taliban regime came to power there along with population at present;

(b) the number of Hindus and Sikhs who have come to India during the Taliban regime there; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to send them back to Afghanistan and provide help to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) In absence of any official census in Afghanistan, precise figures of population in Afghanistan, including Afghans of Indian origin, are not available. There have been varying estimates regarding the population of Afghan citizens of Indian origin in Afghanistan.

On account of civil conflict of past several years in Afghanistan, and repressive regime of the Taliban, a large number of Afghan nationals, including those of Indian origin have been living in India. According to the figures available with the Ministry of Home Affairs, there are about 18,500 registered Afghans in India. Another few thousands are Maying on UNHCR certificates, it is estimated that about 60% of the Afghan nationals staying in India are of Indian origin.

With the eslabhshment of the Afghan Interim Administration government would encourage Afghan citizens, including those of Indian origin, to return to their country.